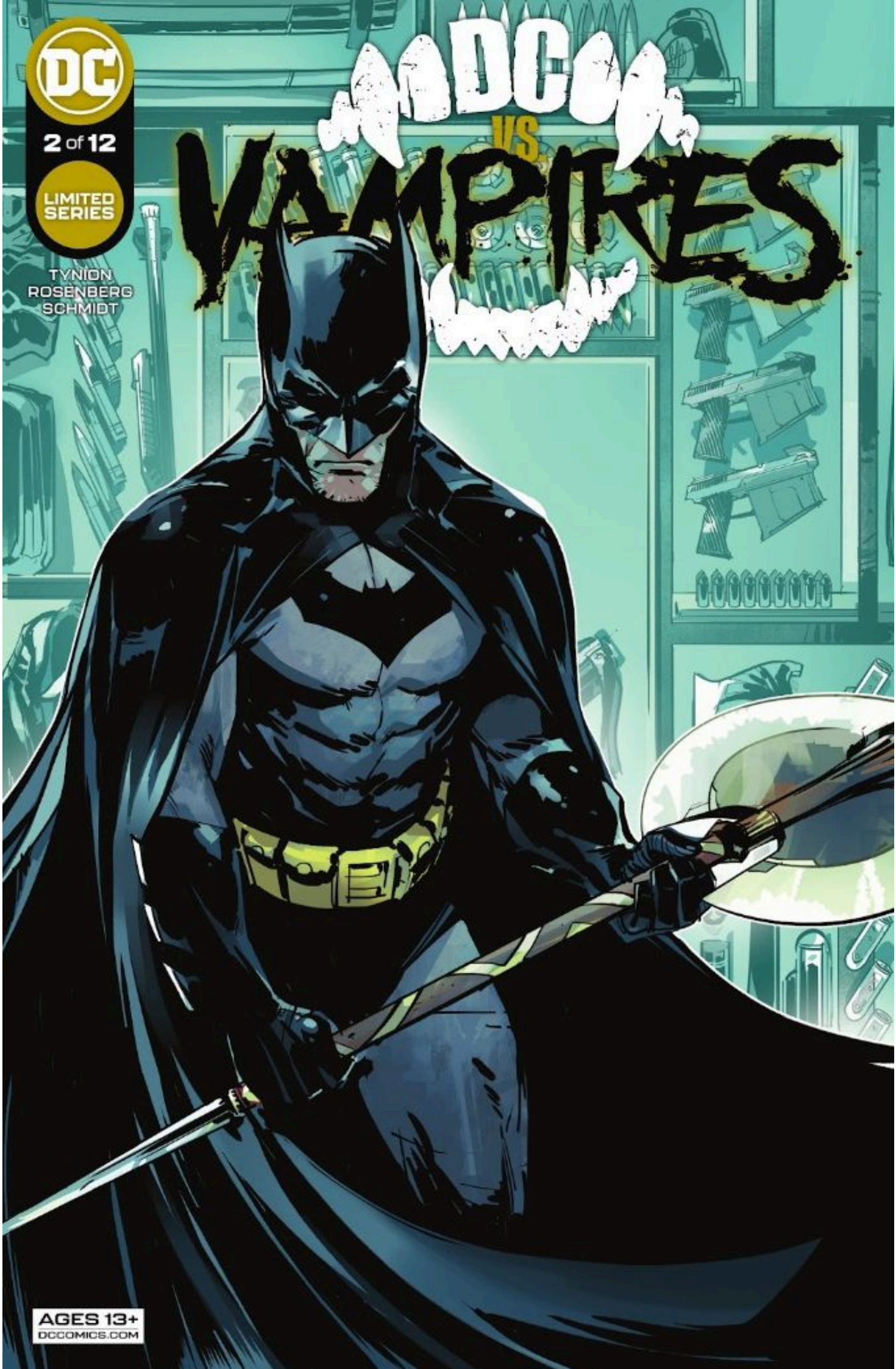

DC
2 of 12
LIMITED SERIES
TYNION
ROSENBERG
SCHMIDT
DC VS. VAMPIRES
AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

BLOOD + SAND
WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV &
MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART, COLOR & MAIN COVER BY
OTTO SCHMIDT
LETTERED BY
TOM NAPOLITANO
VARIANT COVER BY
FRANCESCO MATTINA
EDITED BY
BEN ABERNATHY
I CAN'T FATHOM THAT YOU DON'T KNOW OF ME. SURELY THE NAME ANTON ARCANE IS STILL SPOKEN IN HUSHED TONES WHEN THE NECROMANTIC ARTS ARE INVOKED.
SO TELL ME, UNDEAD CREATURE, DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD SNEAK UP ON ME?
NO. I DIDN'T THINK THAT.

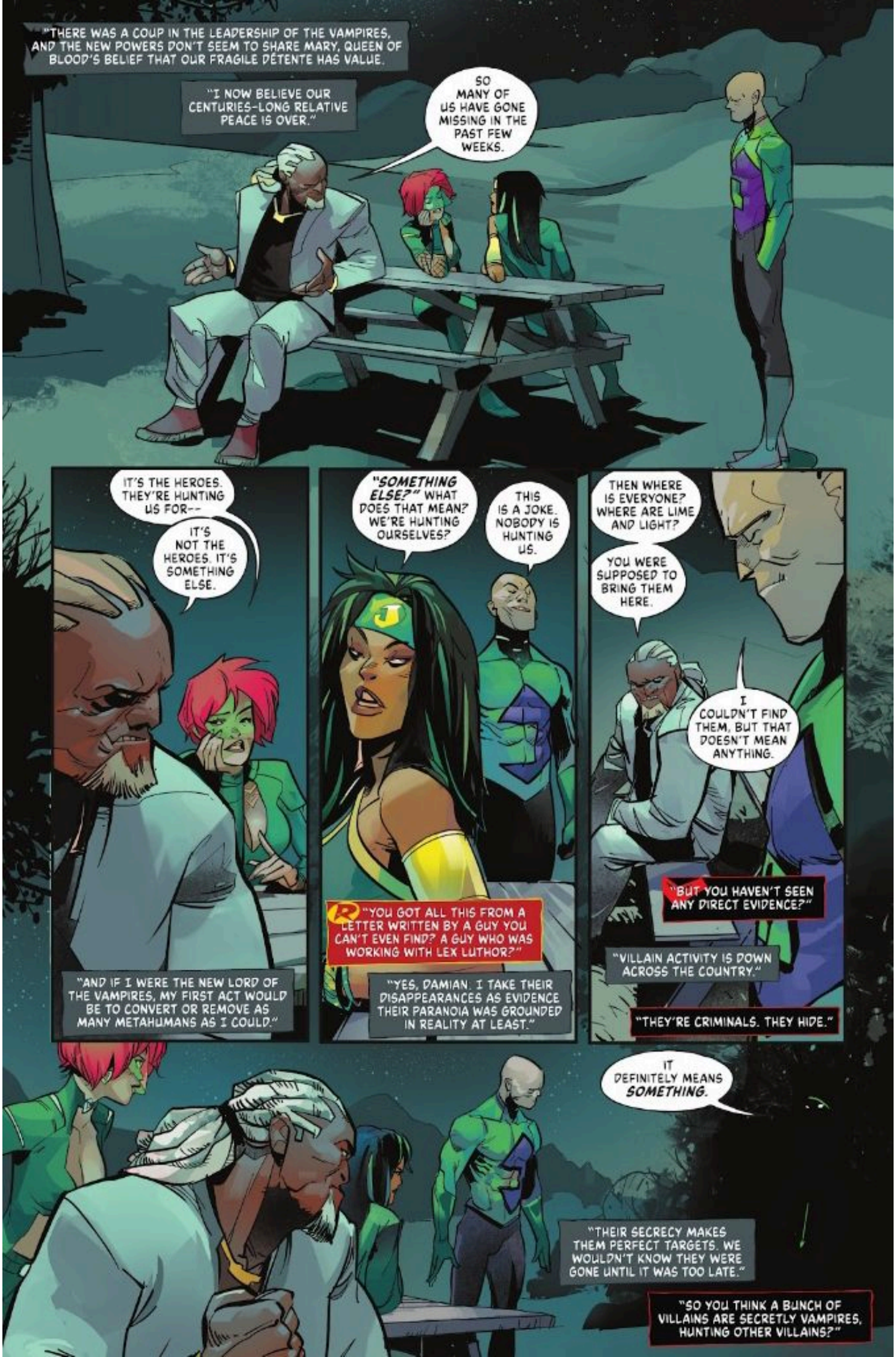
I JUST DIDN'T CARE, ANTON.
AHORNAH MGN'GHA KADISHTU SILENCE NG AHORNAH H' MGN'GHFT AH SYHA'H EXTINGUISH--
ACK! ACK!
YOUR MAGIC IS VERY STRONG. YOU MIGHT EVEN BE THE STRONGEST I'VE FACED YET.
BUT I'M AFRAID MY WILL IS STRONGER.
SCHLUNK

A LITTLE MUCH, WASN'T IT, HAL?
MASTER, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
STOP, STOP. WE'RE NOT DOING ALL THAT.
I'M HERE BECAUSE WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
WHATEVER IT IS, I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
YOU SAY THAT, BUT THIS PROBLEM AROSE BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO DEAL WITH THE LAST PROBLEM.
ANDREW BENNETT. HE WAS IN THE WIND FOR A WEEK BEFORE YOU FINALLY GOT AHOLD OF HIM, HAL. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE WENT OR WHO HE SPOKE WITH.
I DON'T BELIEVE HE SPOKE WITH ANYONE.
AND I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE.
WE NEED TO ASSUME HE TOLD PEOPLE OUR PLANS. MAYBE THEY WON'T BELIEVE HIM--HE ALWAYS WAS A RAVING LUNATIC, AFTER ALL--BUT SOMEONE WILL TALK. ENOUGH WHISPERS CAN TURN INTO A ROAR.
SUSPICIONS WILL SPREAD. YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP THOSE SUSPICIONS POINTED AWAY FROM US. YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE SUPERHEROES DISTRACTED AND DISTRUSTFUL OF EACH OTHER...

"THE LAST THING WE NEED IS THE WRONG PERSON FIGURING OUT WHO WE ARE."
LONG NIGHT?
THEY'RE ALWAYS LONG, DICK. WHY ARE WE MEETING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A BIT. HOW ARE YOU?
SORRY, YEAH. I'VE JUST BEEN SO BUSY LATELY DOING...I DON'T EVEN KNOW? BUT YOU LOOK GOOD.
REALLY GOOD.
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME. I JUST WOKE UP TOO.
NO, I JUST MEANT...YOU LOOK...
...IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU, IS ALL.
BUT SERIOUSLY, WHY DID HE BRING US ALL HERE?
HE DOESN'T KNOW.
NONE OF YOU KNOW WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME. AND WHAT IS DISCUSSED HERE NOW MUST STAY WITH US.
UNDERSTOOD?

WEIRD TIME FOR US TO MEET, ISN'T IT, BRUCE?
AND WEIRD PLACE TO MEET. NOT THAT WE ALL COULDN'T USE THE VITAMIN D.
THAT IS ALL PART OF IT. AND ALFRED MADE SOME TEA.
OKAY. DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO SAY IT? FINE.
WHY IS THE CRAZY ONE HERE?
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE CRAZY ONE.
I MAINTAIN THAT ALL OF YOU WOULD BE HELPED A GREAT DEAL BY A THERAPIST.
I WAS RECENTLY VISITED BY ANDREW BENNETT, THE VAMPIRE.
HE CAME TO THE FRONT DOOR RIGHT OVER THERE.
LOOKING FOR BATMAN.

HOW?
I BELIEVE LEX LUTHOR TOLD HIM MY IDENTITY.
LUTHOR?! THAT'S--
THAT ISN'T THE PART THAT UPSETS ME.
REALLY? BECAUSE IT UPSETS ME A LOT.
I DIDN'T SPEAK WITH ANDREW. I WAS AWAY AT THE TIME, BUT HE LEFT A NOTE WITH ALFRED.
THE CONTENTS OF THAT NOTE ARE WHY YOU ARE ALL HERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING A LITTLE STRONGER? I'M FALLING ASLEEP IN MY SOUP OVER HERE.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND, MISS BARBARA. BUT I'D SUGGEST YOU TRY THE TEA FIRST. IT PACKS QUITE A KICK.
I ATTEMPTED TO TRACK MR. BENNETT AFTER HE LEFT HERE. HE WAS MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO COVER HIS TRACKS AND I BELIEVE HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED FOR AT LEAST PART OF HIS JOURNEY, BUT I KNOW HE WAS HEADED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
THEN HIS TRAIL WENT COLD AND I HAVE FOUND NO TRACE OF HIM SINCE. LIKEWISE, I CAN'T FIND ANY TRACE, OF LUTHOR IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. NO ONE ON EARTH HAS SEEN HIM.
I DON'T DRINK TEA--
I PREPARED A COCOA FOR YOU, MASTER DAMIAN. WITH MARSHMALLOWS.
ANDREW BENNETT'S LETTER CLAIMED THAT THE VAMPIRES ARE PREPARING TO WAGE WAR ON HUMANITY SOON.


"THERE WAS A COUP IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE VAMPIRES, AND THE NEW POWERS DON'T SEEM TO SHARE MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD'S BELIEF THAT OUR FRAGILE DÉTENTE HAS VALUE.
"I NOW BELIEVE OUR CENTURIES-LONG RELATIVE PEACE IS OVER."
SO MANY OF US HAVE GONE MISSING IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.
IT'S THE HEROES. THEY'RE HUNTING US FOR--
IT'S NOT THE HEROES. IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.
"AND IF I WERE THE NEW LORD OF THE VAMPIRES, MY FIRST ACT WOULD BE TO CONVERT OR REMOVE AS MANY METAHUMANS AS I COULD."
"SOMETHING ELSE?" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WE'RE HUNTING OURSELVES?
THIS IS A JOKE. NOBODY IS HUNTING US.
"YOU GOT ALL THIS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY A GUY YOU CAN'T EVEN FIND? A GUY WHO WAS WORKING WITH LEX LUTHOR?"
"YES, DAMIAN. I TAKE THEIR DISAPPEARANCES AS EVIDENCE THEIR PARANOIA WAS GROUNDED IN REALITY AT LEAST."
THEN WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHERE ARE LIME AND LIGHT?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING THEM HERE.
I COULDN'T FIND THEM, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
"BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY DIRECT EVIDENCE?"
"VILLAIN ACTIVITY IS DOWN ACROSS THE COUNTRY."
"THEY'RE CRIMINALS. THEY HIDE."
IT DEFINITELY MEANS SOMETHING.
"THEIR SECRECY MAKES THEM PERFECT TARGETS. WE WOULDN'T KNOW THEY WERE GONE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."
"SO YOU THINK A BUNCH OF VILLAINS ARE SECRETLY VAMPIRES, HUNTING OTHER VILLAINS?"

"IT'S NOT NECESSARILY A VILLAIN WE'RE LOOKING FOR."
EASY NOW. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT ALL OF YOU.
IF YOU AREN'T HERE TO FIGHT, WHAT'S WITH THE ARROW?
I SAID I WASN'T HERE TO FIGHT ALL OF YOU.
SCREW THIS. WE CAN TAKE HIM--
ARGGH!
THUNK
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T. JUST NOT WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY SOUNDS ABSURD, BUT BEAR WITH ME.
VAMPIRES HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING THE METAHUMAN COMMUNITY, CONVERTING OR KILLING ANYONE WHO COULD FIGHT BACK AGAINST THEIR WAR ON HUMANITY.
WHAT THE @#*& ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?
ONE OF YOU IS A VAMPIRE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EVERYMAN?
HA!
HEH HEH.
HAH!
HSSSS!
YOU'LL DIE FOR THIS, ARCHER!
OH MY GOD!

I'M SORRY THEY DID THIS TO YOU.
YOU AREN'T SAFE. START PROTECTING YOURSELVES.
YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A HUMAN-VAMPIRE WAR COMING?
IT'S ALREADY HERE, LADY.

THIS FEELS LIKE HE'S JOKING.
HE DOESN'T REALLY DO THAT.
I KNOW. BUT IF HE DID I BET THIS IS WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE.
I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT JOKING, BARBARA.
YEARS AGO I ENCOUNTERED A MAN NAMED NICCOLAI TEPES. THE MAD MONK.
THIS WAS BEFORE MOST OF YOUR TIME.
DICK WILL REMEMBER HIS FEMALE COUNTERPART, DALA.
I BET HE WILL.
STOP.
SHE WAS A BLOODTHIRSTY VAMPIRE WHO LURED INNOCENT PEOPLE TO THEIR DEATHS AT THE BIDDING OF HER MASTER, JASON.
I WASN'T JUDGING HIM. EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR TYPE.
THE MAD MONK WAS MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE SUPERNATURAL. I WAS YOUNGER, NAIVE, BUT HE WAS ALMOST MY LAST. SINCE THAT DAY I'VE APPROACHED EVERY SUPERNATURAL FIGHT THE SAME WAY.
I DON'T EXPECT THEM TO GO WELL.
AT THE TIME I KNEW HIM, IF HE HAD THE WILL, THE MAD MONK'S POWERS AND INSATIABLE HUNGER MADE HIM A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
I FEAR NOW MY SUSPICIONS ARE ON THE VERGE OF BEING PROVEN CORRECT.
SO YOU BELIEVE THE MAD MONK IS BEHIND THIS?
I DON'T KNOW.
THE TRUTH IS THAT AFTER A WEEK OF INVESTIGATING... I HAVE NO IDEA WHO WE MIGHT BE FACING.
THIS IS BAD.

THE BEST WE CAN DO IS MAKE EDUCATED GUESSES ON WHO THEY'LL GO AFTER. THEY'LL HUNT METAHUMANS, OF COURSE.
WHICH ONES?
VILLAINS FIRST. THEY GO TO GROUND FOR PROLONGED STRETCHES BETWEEN JOBS. IT'D TAKE US A LONG TIME TO NOTICE IF THEY WERE BEING DISAPPEARED...
THEY'D NEED TO TAKE OUT THE TELEPATHS AND PSYCHICS. ANYONE WHO COULD FIND OUT THEIR PLANS.
MAGIC USERS. THAT'S A WEAKNESS FOR THEM TOO, RIGHT?
THEY'RE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUNLIGHT, RIGHT?
I'D TOTALLY KILL PEOPLE LIKE THE RAY AND DR. LIGHT...
I MEAN...IF I WAS ONE OF THEM.
WE SHOULDN'T JUST BE THINKING OF WHO THEY'D KILL.
WHO WOULD THEY CONVERT?
YOUNG HEROES. IT I WAS BUILDING AN ARMY I'D MAKE IT NO OLD DUDES ALLOWED.
I'M SURE YOU WOULD, LITTLE MAN.
SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US, BRUCE?

"DAMIAN IS PARTIALLY RIGHT. THEY'LL NEED TO START MAKING INROADS INTO THE HERO COMMUNITY. THEY'LL TRY TO INFILTRATE US...IT'S WHAT WE'D DO.
"THEY MAY ALREADY HAVE MEMBERS IN THE TITANS...
"...THE OUTSIDERS...
"...THE BIRDS OF PREY...
"BUT GETTING TO A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE INITIALLY WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT. THEY'D USE THE YOUNGER HEROES TO GET TO THE *OLD DUDES,* AS YOU SAID."

HELLO, JAYNA. IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN MY BROTHER?

NO. IS HE NOT...?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TWO NOT TOGETHER. LIKE, NEVER.

HEY, WHAT'S UP?
IT'S MY BROTHER. HE'S BEEN GONE FOR DAYS. I CAN'T FEEL HIM ANYMORE.
MAYBE HE JUST NEEDED A BREAK FROM...YA KNOW...BEING FELT BY HIS SISTER?

I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
I CAN GO WITH YOU IF YOU WANT.
NO, I... MR. GOLD IS PROBABLY RIGHT.

I JUST HAVE TO GO.

DUDE!
WHAT? THEY SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THEY'RE WEIRD?

SO IF LITERALLY ANYONE COULD BE A VAMPIRE, WHY DO YOU TRUST US?
HE DOESN'T.
DID YOU POISON MY COCOA?!
NO, DAMIAN. I DID NOT POISON YOUR COCOA. ALL OF YOUR DRINKS WERE MADE WITH HOLY WATER. IF YOU WERE A VAMPIRE IT WOULD HAVE BURNED YOU.
LIKEWISE, WE'RE MEETING IN THE SUNROOM INSTEAD OF THE CAVE SO WE CAN ALL SEE THAT THE U.V. LIGHT COMING THROUGH THE WINDOWS ISN'T HURTING ANYONE.
NOW IF YOU'LL ALL FOLLOW ME, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
CAN I GET ANOTHER COCOA? MINE SPILLED.
OF COURSE, MASTER DAMIAN.

SO YOU INVITED US HERE TO SPIKE OUR DRINKS?
ALSO I'VE HAD CASSANDRA STUDYING EVERYONE'S BODY LANGUAGE AND REACTIONS FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL SINCE YOU ALL ARRIVED.
ANYONE ACTING UNUSUAL?
NOT MORE THAN USUAL.
SPIKED OUR DRINKS AND SPYING ON US. ANYTHING ELSE?
YES.
I NEED EVERYONE TO HOLD THIS.
TA-DA!
THIS IS ACTUALLY LOVELY WOODWORK.
SATISFIED?
EVERYONE NEEDS TO STOP LOOKING SO SURPRISED WHEN I PASS THE TESTS.

NOW WE CAN BEGIN.
THESE ARE OUR NEW TOOLS.
THESE WILL HELP US CATCH VAMPIRES?
HALF MEASURES AREN'T AN OPTION ANYMORE. WE AREN'T TRYING TO *CATCH* THEM.
SO YOU'RE EXPECTING US ALL TO *KILL* NOW?
YOU CAN'T KILL THEM. THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.
COOL.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF MAKING YOU DINNER, SIR. JUST BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARIES DON'T EAT, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN AFFORD NOT TO.
LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE. I'LL GET TO IT SOON.
EXCELLENT. THEY SAY BROILED SALMON IS BEST WHEN YOU LET IT COME TO ROOM TEMPERATURE... AND SIT.
sllrp
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE, ALFRED?
OH, I APOLOGIZE. WAS MY SIPPING TEA BOTHERING YOU?
IT'S FINE.
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW I'M HAVING THE TEA.
GOOD.
I'M ASSUMING MY NOT BEING ASKED TO DRINK IT WAS MERELY AN OVERSIGHT ON YOUR PART.
OF COURSE.
ALSO, I HAD OUR BOILER BLESSED SO IF YOU WERE A VAMPIRE YOU WOULD HAVE BURNED TO DEATH WHEN YOU RAN YOUR EVENING BATH LAST NIGHT.
OH. HOW... THOUGHTFUL.
MASTER WAYNE, IF I MAY...
YOU DIDN'T INFORM THEM OF THE VIAL OF LEX LUTHOR'S BLOOD YOU'VE COME INTO POSSESSION OF?
PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN SOMEONE ELSE IS ALWAYS A GAMBLE. I TRUST THEM. ESPECIALLY AFTER TODAY...
BUT THE FATE OF HUMANITY IS AT STAKE HERE AND THAT'S NOT MINE OR ANYONE ELSE'S TO GAMBLE WITH.

BARRY? AM I LATE?
NO. I JUST GOT HERE A MINUTE EARLY AND FIGURED I'D DO SOME GOOD WHILE I WAITED.
IT LOOKS NICE.

TAKE A SEAT.
IF YOU'RE GONNA SHOW OFF...
AFTER YOU.
LISTEN, I NEEDED TO TALK TO YOU SOMEPLACE I THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD BE LISTENING.
SOMETHING BAD IS COMING, BARRY.
THIS IS FATE-OF-THE-WORLD STUFF. WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT.
THIS TIME IT IS.
HEY. THAT'S NEVER GUARANTEED.
HAS ANYONE TALKED TO YOU ABOUT THIS? BRUCE? CLARK?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
RIGHT. SORRY.
YOU KNOW I RAMBLE WHEN I'M NERVOUS...
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME. YOU TRUST ME?
OF COURSE, HAL. WHAT--
I TRUST YOU TOO, BARRY.
I KNOW THAT IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO ME, YOU'D BE THE FIRST ONE ON MY SIDE.
SAME.
I WOULD. I REALLY WOULD. AND YOU KNOW WHEN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS TO ME I WANT YOU THERE WITH ME TOO, RIGHT?

WELL, SOMETHING GOOD DID HAPPEN TO ME. SOMETHING WONDERFUL. AND I WANTED IT TO HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO.
I TRIED. I ARGUED FOR YOU, BARRY. BUT MY LORD SAID THE WAY YOUR POWERS WORK, YOUR METABOLISM AND YOUR SPEED...
...THEY SAID YOUR HUNGER WOULD CAUSE A GENOCIDE.
WHAT ARE YOU...
THEY SAID YOU'D DRINK THE PLANET TO DEATH.
HEY!
I ARGUED FOR YOU.
I KNEW THEY WERE RIGHT BUT I ARGUED.
THEY WOULDN'T LET ME TURN YOU.
AH! I ALWAYS FORGET HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE WHEN YOU CUT LOOSE.
BE STILL, BARRY ALLEN. BE STILL.
HAL, THIS ISN'T YOU! LISTEN TO ME!

NO, BARRY. THIS IS ME.
WAIT--
SNAP
I'M SO SORRY, BARRY. I WANTED TO CONQUER THE WORLD WITH YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED...